Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating cerebral ischemia comprising administering a compound capable of depleting mast cells or ~~a compound~~ inhibiting mast cell[[s]] degranulation to a human in need of such treatment.

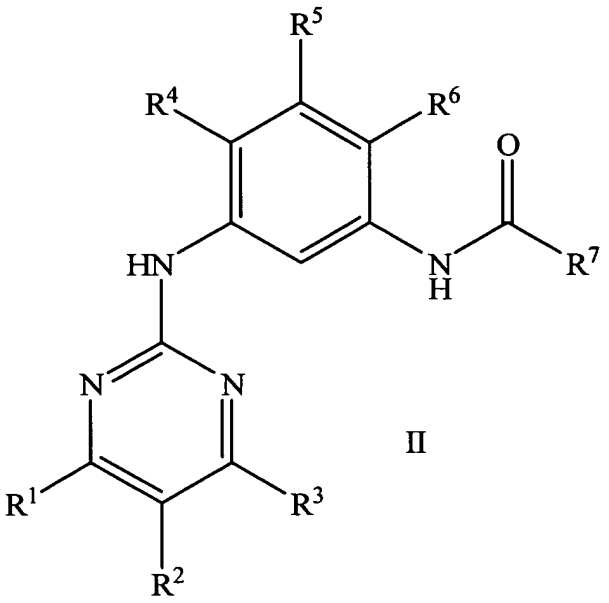
2. (Currently Amended) The~~A~~ method of ~~according to~~ claim 1, wherein the compound is ~~for treating cerebral ischemia comprising administering~~ a c-kit inhibitor ~~to a human in need of such treatment~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The~~A~~ method of ~~according to~~ claim 2, wherein the~~said~~ c-kit inhibitor is a non-toxic, selective ~~and potent~~ c-kit inhibitor wherein it is unable to promote death of IL-3 dependent cells cultured in the presence of IL-3.

4-26. (Canceled)

27. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is a 2-(3-amino)arylamino-4-aryl-thiazole, a pyrimidine, an N-phenyl-2-pyrimidine amine, an indolinone, a pyrrole-substituted indolinone, a monocyclic aryl compound , a bicyclic aryl compound, a monocyclic heteroaryl compound, a bicyclic heteroaryl compound, or a quinazoline.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the compound is a compound of formula II



II

wherein,

R^1, R^2, and R^3 are independently H, F, Cl, Br, I, a C_{1-5} alkyl, or a cyclic or heterocyclic group;

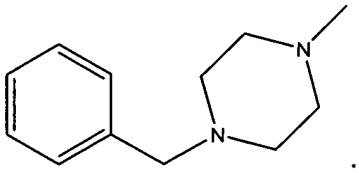
R^4, R^5, and R^6 are independently H, F, Cl, Br, I, a C_{1-5} alkyl; and

R^7 is a phenyl group bearing at least one substituent, which in turn possesses at least one basic site.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein

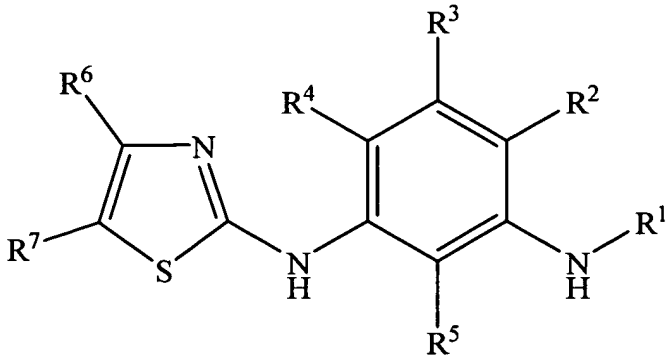
R^1, R^2, and R^3 are independently H or pyridyl; and/or

R^4, R^5, and R^6 are independently H or methyl; and/or

R^7 is  .

30. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the compound is 4-(4-methylpiperazine-1-ylmethyl)-N-[4-methyl-3-(4-pyridin-3-yl)pyrimidin-2-ylamino)phenyl]-benzamide.

31. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the compound is a compound of formula III:



III

wherein,

R^1 is:

(a) a linear or branched alkyl group containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms optionally substituted with at least one heteroatom selected from F, Br, Cl, I, or a pendant basic nitrogen functionality;

(b) an aryl or heteroaryl group substituted with an alkyl or aryl group optionally substituted with a heteroatom selected from F, Br, Cl, I, or a pendant basic nitrogen functionality;

(c) a sulfonyl or $-SO_2R$ group, wherein R is an alkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl group substituted with a heteroatom selected from F, Br, Cl, I, or a pendant basic nitrogen functionality; or

(d) a –CO-NH-R, -CO-R, -CO-OR, or CO-NRR' group, wherein R and R' are independently selected from H or an aryl, heteroaryl, alkyl, or cycloalkyl group optionally substituted with at least one heteroatom selected from F, Br, Cl, I, or a pendant basic nitrogen functionality;

R^2, R^3, R^4, and R^5 are independently H, halogen, a linear or branched alkyl group containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, trifluoromethyl or alkoxy; and

R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from

(a) an aryl group that is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents selected from halogen, an alkyl group containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, trifluoromethyl or alkoxy;

(b) a heteroaryl group that is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more halogen, an alkyl group containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, trifluoromethyl or alkoxy; or

(c) H, F, Cl, Br, I, NH_2, NO_2, or SO_2.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from

(a) a 2-pyridyl, 3-pyridyl, or 4-pyridyl group that is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents selected from halogen, an alkyl group containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, trifluoromethyl or alkoxy;

(b) a 2-thienyl, 3-thienyl, 2-thiazolyl, 4-thiazolyl, or 5-thiazolyl group that is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents selected from halogen, an alkyl group containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, trifluoromethyl or alkoxy; or

(c) H, F, Cl, Br, I, NH_2, NO_2, or SO_2.

33. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the c-kit inhibitor is an inhibitor of activated c-kit, constitutively activated-mutant c-kit, and/or SCF-activated c-kit.

34. (New) A method for treating and/or preventing or delaying renal cerebral ischemia comprising administering to a human in need of such treatment a compound that is a selective, non toxic inhibitor of activated c-kit obtainable by a screening method which comprises:

(a) bringing into contact (i) activated c-kit and (ii) at least one compound to be tested; under conditions allowing the components (i) and (ii) to form a complex,

(b) selecting compounds that inhibit activated c-kit,

(c) testing and selecting a subset of compounds identified in step b), which are unable to promote death of IL-3 dependent cells cultured in the presence of IL-3.

35. (New) A method according to claim 34, further comprising testing and selecting a subset of compounds identified in step (b) that are inhibitors of mutant activated c-kit, which are also capable of inhibiting SCF-activated c-kit wild.

36. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the activated c-kit is SCF-activated c-kit wild.

37. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the at least one compound in step (a) is tested at a concentration above 10 μM.

38. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the IL-3 is present in the culture at a concentration of from 0.5 ng/ml to 10 ng/ml.

39. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the IL-3 dependent cells are selected from the group consisting of mast cells, transfected mast cells, BaF3 and IC-2.

40. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the extent to which component (ii) inhibits activated c-kit is measured in vitro or in vivo.

41. (New) The method of claim 34, further comprising the step consisting of testing and selecting compounds capable of inhibiting c-kit wild at concentration below 1 μM.

42. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the inhibition of mutant-activated c-kit and/or c-kit wild is measured using immunoprecipitation or Western blot.

43. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein step (b) further comprises measuring the amount of c-kit phosphorylation.

44. (New) A method for treating and/or preventing or delaying cerebral ischemia comprising administering to a human in need of such treatment a c-kit inhibitor obtainable by a screening method comprising :

(a) performing a proliferation assay with cells expressing a mutant c-kit, which mutant is a permanent activated c-kit, with a plurality of test compounds to identify a subset of candidate compounds targeting activated c-kit, each compound having an IC_{50} of less than 19 μM, by measuring the extent of cell death;

(b) performing a proliferation assay with cells expressing c-kit wild and the subset of candidate compounds identified in step (a), the cells being IL-3 dependent cells cultured in the presence of IL-3, to identify a subset of candidate compounds specifically targeting c-kit;

(c) performing a proliferation assay with cells expressing c-kit and the subset of compounds identified in step (b) and selecting a subset of candidate compounds targeting c-kit wild, each having an $IC_{50} < 10$ μM, by measuring the extent of cell death.

45. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the IC_{50} value in (c) is less than 1 μM.

46. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the extent of cell death is measured by ^{3}H thymidine incorporation, trypan blue exclusion, or flow cytometry with propidium iodide.

47. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the cerebral ischemia is hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy induced by stroke, traumatic brain injury, or ischemic insults following reperfusion.

48. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the administering is done before, during, or after reperfusion, or within hours of a cause of the cerebral ischemia.

49. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the traumatic brain injury is cerebral edema or an embolic or thromboembolic occlusion of a cerebral artery.

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